Jack Larson

For the textile designer, see Jack Lenor Larsen

Jack Edward Larson (February 8, 1928 – September 20, 2015) was an American actor, librettist, screenwriter and producer best known for his portrayal of photographer/cub reporter Jimmy Olsen on the television series *Adventures of Superman*.[1]

Contents

Life and career

Personal life

Filmography

Film

Television

References

External links

Jack Larson

Born	Jack Edward Larson February 8, 1928 Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Died	September 20, 2015 (aged 87) Brentwood, Los Angeles, California, U.S.
Occupation	Actor, librettist, screenwriter, producer
Years active	1948–2011
Partner(s)	James Bridges (1958–1993; his death)

Life and career

Larson was born on February 8, 1928[2] in Los Angeles, the son of Anita (Calicoff), a Western Union clerk and George Larson, a milk truck driver. His father was of English and Swedish descent and his mother was from a Jewish family (from Germany and Russia).[3][4] He was reared in Pasadena. He graduated from Montebello High School in 1945, aged 17 and at times claimed 1933 as his birth year.[5]

Larson found the role of cub reporter Jimmy Olsen on *The Adventures of Superman* to be a handicap, because he became typecast as a naive young man.[6] This caused him to do little acting after the show ended in 1958, and instead he focused on behind-the-scenes work, such as writing and production. Larson was always willing to sit for interviews about the *Superman* series and his connection to it, and in recent years had a number of cameos that paid subtle tribute to his character and the series, including a 1991 episode of the TV series *Superboy*, alongside Noel Neill, who played Lois Lane in *Adventures of Superman*, and an episode of *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* as an aged Jimmy Olsen in the episode "Brutal Youth", first broadcast on October 20, 1996.

Larson had a cameo in a late-1990s American Express card commercial with Jerry Seinfeld and an animated Superman, directed by David Kellogg. He and Neill provided commentary on several *Adventures of Superman* episodes for the January 2006 DVD release of the 1953 season, and in 2006, he appeared in Bryan Singer's film *Superman Returns* in a cameo role as "Bo the Bartender". Larson and Neill appeared together at the premiere of *Superman Returns*.

Larson's last television appearance was in an episode of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, which aired on the NBC network on January 6, 2010. In this episode, titled "Quickie", Larson portrayed Dewey Butler, the grandfather of a young suspect who was taking revenge on women by knowingly spreading AIDS to them.

Among his other work, Larson wrote the libretto to the opera *Lord Byron* to music by Virgil Thomson.[7]

Personal life

Larson was the life partner of director James Bridges from 1958 until Bridges' death on June 6, 1993.[8] Prior to that, he was the companion of actor Montgomery Clift.[9]

Larson owned and resided in the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed George Sturges House in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles, California until his death.

He died on September 20, 2015 at the age of 87.[10] His interment was at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier, California.[11]

Filmography

Film

- 1948: *Fighter Squadron* – Lt. 'Shorty' Kirk
- 1949: *Flame of Youth* – Boy (uncredited)
- 1950: *Redwood Forest Trail* – Tommy (uncredited)
- 1950: *A Wonderful Life* (short) – Richard Wood (age 16)
- 1950: *Trial Without Jury* – Dusty
- 1951: *Fighting Coast Guard* – Newsboy (uncredited)
- 1951: *On the Loose* – Charleston Bit (uncredited)
- 1951: *Starlift* – Will (uncredited)
- 1952: *Kid Monk Baroni* – Angelo
- 1952: *Belles on Their Toes* – Packy Talbot (uncredited)
- 1952: *Battle Zone* – Cpl. James O'Doole
- 1952: *Flat Top*
- 1953: *Star of Texas* – Henchman John Jenkins
- 1953: *Three Sailors and a Girl* – Sailor (uncredited)
- 1953: *Man Crazy* – Bob
- 1954: *Stamp Day for Superman* (short) – Jimmy Olsen
- 1954: *About Mrs. Leslie* – Buddy Boyd
- 1957: *Johnny Trouble* – Eddie Landis
- 2006: *Superman Returns* – Bo the Bartender
- 2009: *Bob's New Suit* – Edward McIntyre
- 2016: *Surge of Power: Revenge of the Sequel* – Uncle Jimmy Williamson (final film role)

Television

- 1952: *Adventures of Superman* – Jimmy Olsen / Collins
- 1955: *Navy Log* – Gordon / Freddie / John Crawford / Herbie
- 1960: *The Millionaire* – Buzz
- 1965: *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* – Tommy
- 1991: *Superboy* – Lou Lamont
- 1996: *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* – Old Jimmy Olsen
- 2010: *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit* – Dewey Butler

References

1. Joe Rhodes (July 13, 2006). "The Continuing Adventures and Movie Cameos of Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane" (https://www.nytimes.com/2006/07/13/movies/13supe.html). *The New York Times*. Retrieved February 14, 2015.
2. California Birth Index, 1905–1995. Sacramento, CA, USA: State of California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.
3. "Jack Larson: Actor who gave up his career to write for the stage" (https://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/jack-larson-actor-who-played-jimmy-olsen-to-george-reeves-superman-but-gave-up-his-career-to-write-10517468.html-0). *independent.co.uk* 25 September 2015.
4. "Jack Edward Larson" (http://www.livetvcenter.com/jack_edward_larson_1893.asp). *www.livetvcenter.com*.
5. Hall, Ken (2000–2014). "Jack Larson played "Jimmy Olsen" on the hit '50s TV show The Adventures of Superman" (http://www.go-star.com/antiquing/larson.htm) *Southeastern Antiquing and Collecting Magazine* McElreath Printing & Publishing, Inc. Retrieved August 27, 2014.
6. Mike Barnes. "Jack Larson Dead: Jimmy Olsen on 'Superman' TV Show Was 87" (http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/jack-larson-dead-jimmy-olsen-811008) *The Hollywood Reporter*.
7. Tommasini, Anthony (August 13, 2014). "They Heard America Playing" (https://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/14/arts/music/copland-thomson-and-others-in-a-fantasy-music-festival.html) *The New York Times*. The New York Times Company. Retrieved August 27, 2014.
8. Stern, Keith (2006), *Queers in History*, Beverly Hills, California: Quistory Publishers, p. 64, ISBN 1-84728-348-9
9. "Overview for Montgomery Clift: Companions" (http://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/participant/participant.jsp?spid=35646&aid=114490). TCM Turner Entertainment Networks. 2011 Retrieved July 29, 2011.
10. "Jack Larson, a TV Jimmy Olsen Turned Playwright, Dies at 87" (https://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/21/arts/television/jack-larson-a-playwright-better-known-as-jimmy-olsen-in-superman-dies-at-87.html) 21 September 2015– via NYTimes.com.
11. Wilson, Scott. *Resting Places: The Burial Sites of More Than 14,000 Famous Persons*, 3d ed.: 2 (Kindle Location 26803). McFarland & Company Inc., Publishers. Kindle Edition.

External links

- Jack Larson on IMDb
- Jack Larson at AllMovie
- Superman fan site
- Jack Larson at The Interviews: An Oral History of Television

Retrieved from 'https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jack_Larson&oldid=865942003'

This page was last edited on 27 October 2018, at 05:50 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.